

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

GIZACHEW WONDIE,

Plaintiff,

v.

KING COUNTY et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:21-cv-01623-JHC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' Proposed Model Stipulated Protective Order, which the Court construes as a motion (the "Motion"). Dkt. # 29. The Court has considered the Motion and, for the reasons discussed below, DENIES it without prejudice.

"There is a strong presumption of public access to the court's files." LCR 5(g). The Court may issue a protective order "for good cause" under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c). The Court

may enter a proposed stipulated protective order as an order of the court if it adequately and specifically describes the justification for such an order, it is consistent with court rules, it does not purport to confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, its protection from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle the parties to file confidential information under seal.

1 LCR 26(c)(2). The Court's Model Stipulated Protective Order instructs, "The parties must
2 include a list of specific documents such as 'company's customer list' or 'plaintiff's medical
3 records;' do not list broad categories of documents such as 'sensitive business material.'" W.D.
4 Wash. Model Stipulated Protective Order, [https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/sites/wawd/files](https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/sites/wawd/files/ModelStipulatedProtectiveOrder.pdf)
5 /ModelStipulatedProtectiveOrder.pdf.

6 The proposed order defines "Sensitive" material as material "that is highly law
7 enforcement sensitive and marked as 'Sensitive Material.'" Dkt. # 29 at 2. This definition is
8 circular to an extent. *See Taladay v. Metro. Grp. Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co.*, No. C14-1290-JPD,
9 2015 WL 4494561, at *2 (W.D. Wash. July 23, 2015) ("Indeed, Chase's circular definition of
10 'confidential' material under the protective order purports to include any testimony 'marked
11 confidential' and any document containing 'confidential material' pertaining to customers or
12 policies and practices of Chase."). Thus, this definition does not comply with Local Civil Rule
13 26(c)(2). And the parties do not justify the category with argument.

14 The Court DENIES the Motion without prejudice. Dkt. # 29. The parties may file a
15 revised stipulated protective order. The Clerk is directed to send uncertified copies of this Order
16 to all counsel of record and to any party appearing pro se at said party's last known address.

17 Dated this 26th day of May, 2022.

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19 John H. Chun
20 United States District Judge
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